



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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## **President's Affirmation of the So-Called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban" is a Setback for Human Rights, Lantos Says**

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) today said the signing of legislation to outlaw a safe and infrequently used abortion procedure, known by its opponents as a "partial-birth abortion," is a setback for human rights in the United States.

"This disturbing piece of legislation turns a deeply personal and private decision into a political issue," Lantos said. "It removes a woman's right to choose what is in the best interest of her own health, and as agonizing as it may be under such circumstances, that choice ought to be hers to make. Giving the government the right to force a woman to carry a fetus to term when a medically acceptable alternative is available is a setback for human rights."

The House of Representatives last month passed the bill to ban this particular late-term abortion procedure by 281 to 142 votes; Lantos voted against it.

Lantos, the co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, has been a staunch supporter of a woman's right to choose throughout his service in Congress, and has continued to speak out against recent anti-choice efforts, including the Administration's decision to expand the global gag rule.

"Whether the issue is choking off funds for health clinics in developing countries, or constant efforts to narrow the range of choices available to pregnant women in the United States, political leaders should not meddle in delicate medical decisions in the interest of satisfying the demands of their conservative voter base," Lantos said.

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